REMARKS

Claims 1 - 36 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 36 have been rejected.

Claims 1 – 8 stand rejected under Sebastian et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,822,206 (Sebastian). Claims 9 – 36 stand rejected under Sebastian in view of Beauchesne, U.S. Patent No. 5,777,876 (Beauchesne).

The invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a method for procuring a manufactured component through a plurality of development stages. The method includes providing a database for storing information related to procuring the manufactured component; sharing the database among a plurality of relevant parties, at least one of the relevant parties comprising an outside vendor; inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component; and modifying the database at each development stage of the manufactured component if necessary.

The invention, as set forth by independent claim 9, relates to a database stored on a memory for use in manufacturing a component. The database includes: a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component; a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages; and a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of partitions; wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

The invention, as set forth by independent claim 17, relates to a method of procuring a computer component comprising: providing a database stored on a memory. The database includes: a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component; a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages; and a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of partitions, and providing access to the database by a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

The invention, as set forth by independent claim 26, relates to a computer system including: a processor; system memory coupled to the processor; and a memory coupled to the

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processor, the memory including a database for use in manufacturing a component. The database includes: a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component; a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages; and a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of partitions; wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

Sebastian discloses an engineering design system which enables concurrent design of tools, parts and processes. A core design module designs the part, the tool to make the part and process to make the part by accessing a plurality of feature templates to locate primitive objects that perform predetermined functions. The part designed is provided with all relevant information effecting the part design (such as information about the process and materials used to make the part) while the part is being designed. (Col. 5, lines 35 – 41.) The system also includes an engineering economics estimator module which provides the resources to trade off various approaches in tool design and manufacturing configuration, manufacturing locale and choice of vendor against production requirement to arrive at optimal choices; however, there is no disclosure of this information being provided to the engineering design system by an outside vendor. (Col. 6, lines 45 – 64.) One of the functions within the design module enables a user to enter information or make decisions concerning the design of a part or sub-part. A change to a single design feature may dictate changes in a number of other features, the design module implements and controls these changes. (Col. 18, lines 24 – 34).

Beauchesne discloses a database system which provides a manufacturing environment which integrates a plurality of manufacturing processes to control the manufacture of a number of electronic board products on a plurality of manufacturing lines.

Sebastian and Beauchesne do not disclose or suggest, taken alone or in combination, a method for procuring a manufactured component through a plurality of development stages which includes sharing a database among a plurality of relevant parties, *at least one of the relevant parties comprising an outside vendor,* much less inputting data into the database by at

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least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component and modifying the database at each development stage of the manufactured component if necessary, all as required by independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Sebastian and Beauchesne. Claims 2 – 8 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Sebastian and Beauchesne, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, taken alone or in combination, a database stored on a memory for use in manufacturing a component wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and *at least one outside vendor*, all as required by independent claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9 is allowable over Sebastian and Beauchesne. Claims 10 – 16 depend from claim 9 and are allowable for at least this reason.
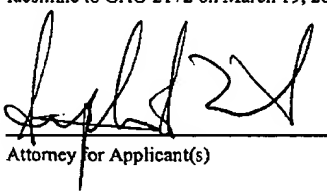
Sebastian and Beauchesne, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, taken alone or in combination, a method of procuring a computer component including providing a database stored on a memory wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and *at least one outside vendor*, all as required by independent claim 17. Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable over Sebastian and Beauchesne. Claims 18 – 25 and 34 and 35 depend from claim 17 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Sebastian and Beauchesne, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest, taken alone or in combination, a computer system including: a processor; system memory coupled to the processor; and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including a database for use in manufacturing a component wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and *at least one outside vendor*, all as required by independent claim 26. Accordingly, claim 26 is allowable over Sebastian and Beauchesne. Claims 27 – 33 depend from claim 26 and are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.
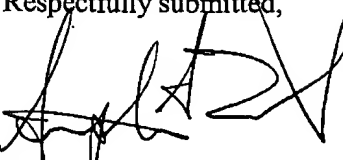
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to GAU 2172 on March 19, 2003.

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Attorney for Applicant(s)   Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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